IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A process for producing a SMAD interacting protein comprising:

conducting a two-hybrid screening assay wherein SMAD C-domain fused to a DNA-binding domain is used as bait and a vertebrate cDNA library is used as prey.

2. (Original) SMAD interacting protein produced by the process of claim 1.

3. (Original) A SMAD interacting protein of the family of zinc finger/homeodomain proteins including d-crystallin enhancer binding protein and/or *Drosophila* zfh-1, wherein said SMAD interacting protein:

does not interact with full size XSMAD1 in yeast,

$SIP1_{czf}$ binds to E2 box sites,

$SIP1_{czf}$ binds to the Brachyury protein binding site,

interferes with Brachyury-mediated transcription activation in cells, and

interacts with C-domain of SMAD 1, 2 and/or 5.

4-7. (Canceled).

8. (Original) A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a functional fragment thereof.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 8, together with a suitable carrier.

11–17. (Canceled).

18. (Original) A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 or a functional fragment thereof.

19–20. (Canceled).

21. (Original) A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence depicted as the one letter code QHLGVGMEAPLLGFPTMNSNLSEVQKVLQIVDNTVSRQKMDCKTEDISKLK (SEQ ID NO: 21) necessary for binding with SMAD.

22. (Original) A SMAD interacting protein of a family of proteins which contain a cluster of 5 CCCH-type zinc fingers including *Drosophila* "Clipper" and Zebrafish "No arches" wherein said SMAD interacting protein

interacts with full size XSMAD1 in yeast,

binds single or double stranded DNA,

has an RNase activity, and

interacts with C-domain of SMAD1, 2 and/or 5.

23. (Canceled).